

City of Takoma Park Residents' Committee On Tax and Service Duplication Issues

**December 1, 2004
AGENDA**

7:00 - 7:05 pm Welcome; Goals for Tonight's Meeting
(Co-Chairs)

7:05 - 7:10 pm Report from Staff (S. Ludlow)

7:10 - 7:15 pm Review / Adoption of Minutes

7:15 - 7:20 pm Opportunity for Public Comment

7:20 - 8:10 pm Presentation by Suzanne Ludlow on City
Services Table

8:10 - 8:20 pm Review of Property Tax Bills

8:20 - 8:55 pm Committee Discussion

8:55 - 9:00 pm Meeting Wrap-up

Obtaining Property Tax Information

To see current or past property tax bills for property in Montgomery County:

Go to:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov

And select:

“Services A-Z”

“Taxes”

“Pay or View Your Property Tax Bill Online” (on right side of screen)

To see information on the property:

Go to:

www.dat.state.md.us

And select:

“Real Property Data Search”

Scroll down to “Montgomery” County

Click on “Street Address”

Then, enter an address, or at least a street name (without adding Ave, St, etc.)

Press “Search”

Potential Working Sub-Groups

Three main working groups have been established:

Education and Communication

Service Analysis

Tax/Income Stream Analysis

Because of the complexity of a number of the service areas to be covered by the Service Analysis working group, there could be several sub-groups:

Police

Public Works

General Government / Communications / Library

Recreation

Housing and Community Development

Legislative Schedule

Takoma Park legislation / action

City Council generally meets four Mondays per month, alternating between work sessions and meetings where formal action is taken. Usually there are no meetings in August. Because 2005 is an election year, formal action should be taken before August to avoid uncertainties caused by the elections. (Sometimes Councilmembers are reluctant to take action on sensitive matters right before an election to avoid binding an incoming Council to major decisions from an outgoing Council.)

County legislation / action

Like the Takoma Park City Council, the County Council meets weekly and also takes a recess in August. The legislative process of the County Council can take much longer than that of the City Council, as bills first go through a committee process, public hearing, action by the committee, then discussion and action by the County Council. The agendas of April and May are almost totally devoted to budget sessions and few other bills are considered by the Council during this time.

State legislation / action

The Maryland State Legislature meets from January to April each year in Annapolis. However, the delegation of Senators and Delegates from Montgomery County begin work in September on bills of "local" (Montgomery County only) or "bi-county" (Montgomery County and Prince George's County only) interest.

If a bill is to be effective statewide, it should be introduced by a Senator and a Delegate in January (it is possible to introduce a bill as late as March 7, in an emergency). If it is desirable to have the Maryland Municipal League to champion a bill, it needs to be submitted to them in early May to be considered by its legislative committee and voted on by the MML members in October for promotion in the next legislative session.

If the bill is to be effective in Montgomery County or Montgomery County and Prince George's County only, the bill needs to be submitted by the first week in September. It then goes through a public hearing process by the Montgomery County delegation. Votes are generally held in December and January by the delegation in committees. Final approval by the delegation generally means it will be approved by the full legislature as a courtesy.

Meeting Evaluation #3

What worked well in this meeting?

What did not work well in this meeting?

What should be improved?

What suggestions do you have to help ensure that the Committee will be able to fulfill the Charge set by the City Council?

Any other comments? (Including comments on meeting place, refreshments, communication methods, etc.)